THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) During the month of April, 2002 the demand of Andhra Pradesh for meeting drinking water needs of Kurnool Town and other villages could not be meet due to over drawal by Karnataka, which has resulted in insufficient storage in Tungabhadra reservoir. The matter was deliberated in an emergency meeting of Tungabhadra Board held on 6th April, 2002 and it was decided that Government of Karnataka would ensure replenishment of excess quantity of water drawn from Tungabhadra reservoir in order to meet the immediate drinking water requirement of Andhra Pradesh. Accordingly, Karnataka Government released water from the reservoirs upstream of the Tungabhadra Dam and there was improvement in the inflows into the Tungabhadra Reservoir. Thereafter on 29th April, 2002 water could be released from Tungabhadra Reservoir to Andhra Pradesh to meet the drinking water needs of Kurnool Town and other villages.

Projects on interlinking of rivers

†98. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to construct 30 projects for interlinking rivers in the country with a view to provide water to dry areas from extra water flowing areas;

(b) if not, the number and other details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of each project; and

(d) the quantum of additional water likely to reach in dry areas under each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan for preparation of the feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 6 links under Peninsular Component. A Task Force has been set up on 13.12.2002 with a view to bringing about consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of projects and modalities for project funding etc. so as to achieve implementation of interlinking of rivers by 2016.

(c) and (d) As per present tentative estimates, the cost of implementation of identified inter basin water transfer link schemes both under Peninsular and Himalayan Component at 2002 price level is Rs. 5,60,000 crore and as per present indication the proposed diversion will be around 174 billion cubic metre.

Completion of projects on interlinking of rivers

†99. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to complete the construction of all the projects of inter connecting the rivers in the country by 2016; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government of India have decided to take up the inter linking of rivers in the country. For this purpose the Central Government has constituted a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha on 13.12.2002. This Task Force is working to suggest and guide for achieving the goal of inter-linking of rivers by the end of 2016.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.